

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 NEA-10 ACDA-07 AID-05 /093 W
-----074436 241404Z /53

R 241000Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9520
INFO OAU CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PORG, OAU

SUBJECT: OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CONVENES

1. TWNETY NINTH REGULAR SESSION OF OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
(CM) FORMLLY OPENED IN LIBREVILLE AFTERNOON JUNE 23 WITH
WELCOMING ADDRESS BY GOG PRESIDENT BONGO, REPLIES BY
SEVERAL FONMINS AND ELECTION OF NEW CM OFFICERS.

2. RELATIVELY ANODYNE SPEECH BY BONGO CALLED UPON ASSEMBLED
DELEGATES TO SAFEGUARD AFIRCAN UNITY AND AVOID INTERNECINE
QUARRELS, AND DEALT BRIEFLY WITH MAJOR AGENDA ITEMS IN
MODERATE TERMS. BONGO INCLUDED STANDARD
CALLS FOR INCREASED
MATERIAL AND MORALSUPPORT TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, FOR
CONDEMNATION OF APARTHEID, FOR SELF DETERMINATION IN
NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE, FOR " AN ADEQUATE SOLUTION" TO
PROBLEM OF MIDDLE EAST, AND FOR INCREASED ATTENTION TO
DEVELOPMENT ISSUES. LAST NAMED TOPIC PRODUCED SHARPEST
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TONE, WITH BONGO DENOUNCING CIEC AS "DIALOGUE OF DEAF"
AND CRITICIZING DEVELOPED COUNTIRS FOR LACK OF CONCERN
ABOUT PROBLEMS OF POORER NATIONS.

3. AT CONCLSUION OF PREPARED SPEECH, BONGO AD-LIBBED
REQUEST TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO MAKE SPECIAL APPEAL
TO MOROCCO AND BENIN-- BOTH ABSENT FROM OPENING SESSION--

TO PARTICIPATE IN WORK OF CM AND OF SUBSEQUENT
SUMMIT. BONGO DREW PARTICULAR APPLAUSE BY APPEALING TO
KEREKOU TO COME AND DISCUSS PROBLEMS OPENLY IN KEEPING
WITH PRINCIPLE THAT OAU "SHOULD WASH ITS DIRTY LINEN
WITHIN THE FAMILY".

4. FONMINS FROM NIGER, TUNISIA AND KENYA SPEAKING FOR
FRANCOPHONE, ARABOPHONE AND ANGLOPHONE STATES RESPECTIVELY
MADE COURTESY REPLIES TO PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH OF WELCOME.
TOGOLESE FONMIN KODJO, OUTGOING CM CHAIRMAN, THAN
SUMMARIZED WORK OF CM OVER PAST SIX MONTHS BEFORE PROCEEDING
TO ELECTION OF NEW CM OFFICERS. IN ACCORDANCE
WITH TRADITION, GABON TOOK CHAIRMANSHP(TO BE EXERCISED
BY FONMIN MARTIN BONGO), WITH SENEGAL, MOZAMBIQUE, AND
SOMALIA AS VICE CHAIRMEN AND EGYPT AS RAPPORTEUR.

5. ONLY SUBSTANTIVE ACTION AT OPENING SESSION WAS
DECISION TO SEND TELEGRAMS TO HASSAN AND KEREKOU IN
ACCORDANCE WITH BONGO SUGGESTION. CABLES WERE SENT
IMMEDIATELY AFTER SESSION ENDED, AND LOCAL TV REPORTED
SAME NIGHT THAT MOROCCO HAS ALREADY AGREED TO
SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO PARTICIPATE IN WORK OF CM.

6. COMMENT: OVERALL AMBIANCE WAS WARM AND RELAXED
DESPITE INEVITABLE CONFUSIONS OF OPENING DAY AND OF
FACILITIES STILL IN SOME CASES IN CONSTRUCTION STAGE.
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DELEGATES HAVE GENERALLY EXPRESSED PLEASED
SURPRISE AT PREPARATIONS MADE BY GABONESE, WHICH HAVE TURNED
OUT FAR BETTER THAN ANYONE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED EVEN
A FEW WEEKS AGO. STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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